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Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board

Review of UNICEF experience in high-income countries and in countries transitioning from upper-middle-income to high-income status

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the review prepared by UNICEF;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of focusing the majority of UNICEF support on least developed countries, wherein least developed countries must receive at least 60 per cent of regular resources and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa at least 50 per cent of regular resources, as described in Executive Board decision 1997/18, and notes that UNICEF programming in low- and middle-income countries should be agreed without requiring fundraising from those countries, although such fundraising should be explored and encouraged;

3. *Welcomes* the important contribution of UNICEF and National Committees for UNICEF to results for disadvantaged children in high-income countries, taking note of the relevance of such work to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Notes* that UNICEF engagement in high-income countries can contribute to increased and diversified funding for the entire organization, and also notes the importance of ensuring financial sustainability, in line with decision 2015/3;

5. *Also notes* the heterogeneity of high-income countries and invites UNICEF to continue to use the most appropriate engagement approach to contribute to results in favour of the most disadvantaged children, depending upon the context in any given high-income country, such as working with other United Nations agencies, working with National Committees, working through UNICEF country offices and programmes, working through multi-country offices and programmes,

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working through the Global and Regional Programme or, subject to approval by the Executive Board, other approaches as may be developed and tested;

6. *Reiterates* its invitation to UNICEF and countries having transitioned to high-income status to develop country programme documents or multi-country programme documents for consideration and decision by the Executive Board, when a continued country programme presence is jointly identified by the Government and UNICEF as the most appropriate engagement approach, taking into account (a) the importance of responding to the country context; and (b) the importance of ensuring that programme investments in countries having transitioned to high-income status lead to net increases in programme resources available for least developed countries, low-income countries and middle-income countries;

7. *Notes* the existing guidelines for country programme documents, and encourages the exploration of possible scenarios for other appropriate engagement approaches and financial sustainability over time in these documents for countries having transitioned to high-income status;

8. *Encourages* UNICEF to consider multiple dimensions of child well-being as the organization prepares its assessment of the resource allocation system for consideration by the Executive Board in February 2017, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goal target to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement the gross domestic product, and noting that the current UNICEF policy for the allocation of regular resources for programmes considers the child population, the under-five mortality rate and the gross national income per capita;

9. *Requests* UNICEF to take into consideration and reflect the experiences and lessons learned in high-income countries when developing the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, in line with the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Also requests* UNICEF to include in the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 an assessment of its engagement in high-income countries, in consultation with the Executive Board, taking into account lessons learned and including an analysis of financial sustainability;

11. *Further requests* that the issue be reported on in the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 and requests UNICEF to regularly provide disaggregated data for different country contexts on resources spent and funding received from or generated through activities in these different contexts.